



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**

NEWS RELEASE

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**Joseph Gatlin is Selected as Orange County's First African - American
Grand Jury Foreperson**

Santa Ana - Joseph Gatlin, a retired Marine, businessman and community leader has been selected to serve as the Foreperson for the 2000/2001 Grand Jury which will commence on July 3, 2000, announced Presiding Judge C. Robert Jameson.

"Mr. Gatlin's credentials are outstanding. He is a dedicated citizen, who has previously served on the Orange County Grand Jury and a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles, and has demonstrated the necessary leadership and negotiation skills to serve as the Foreperson of the 2000/2001 Grand Jury, one of the most diverse grand juries in recent years," said Judge Jameson.

Gatlin is a member of the NAACP, and has served as president of the Orange County Black Republican Council, the Orange County Sickle Cell Program and the Orange County Black Community AIDS Program. He currently serves as president of the, President Distinguished Club, Smedley Chapter One Toastmasters International.

A retired Senior Staff Noncommissioned Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, Gatlin won combat decorations for combat leadership in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He received his associate of arts degree from Santa Ana College, a bachelor of arts degree from California State University, Fullerton, and a master of public administration degree from California State University, Northridge.

Gatlin, 67, resides with his wife, Murl, in Santa Ana, California.

Prior to their impanelment, the in-coming 19 Grand Jury Members and first four alternates will participate in a two-week orientation and training program conducted by members of the present Grand Jury and advisors from the offices of the District Attorney and County Counsel. The 2000/2001 Grand Jury will be impaneled at a proceeding to be held in Department One of the Orange County Superior Court at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, on July 3 at 12:15 p.m.

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(Editor's note: Mr. Gatlin is available for media interviews. He may be reached at (714) 545-2072 or e-mail at jrmgatlin@aol.com)

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